

# The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

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Chicago, August, 1902

## Two Poems By Matthew Arnold.

EAST LONDON.

'Twas August, and the fierce sun overhead  
Smote on the squalid streets of Bethnal Green,  
And the pale weaver, through his windows seen  
In Spitalfields, looked thrice dispirited.

I met a preacher there I knew, and said,—  
“Ill and o’erworked, how fare you in this scene?”  
“Bravely!” said he; “for I of late have been  
Much cheered with thoughts of Christ, the living  
bread.”

O human soul! as long as thou canst so  
Set up a mark of everlasting light,  
Above the howling senses’ ebb and-flow,  
To cheer thee, and to right thee if thou roam,—  
Not with lost toil thou laborest through the night!  
Thou mak’st the heaven thou hop’st indeed thy  
home.

WEST LONDON.

Crouched on the pavement, close by Belgrave  
Square,

A tramp I saw, ill, moody, and tongue-tied;  
A babe in her arms, and at her side  
A girl; their clothes were rags, their feet were  
bare.

Some laboring-men, whose work lay somewhere  
there,

Passed opposite; she touched her girl, who hied  
Across, and begged, and came back satisfied.  
The rich she had let pass with frozen stare.

Thought I, “Above her state this spirit towers;  
She will not ask of aliens, but of friends,  
Of sharers in a common human fate.  
She turns from that cold succor, which attends  
The unknown little from the unknowing great,  
And points us to a better time than ours.”

If a man is unable, then, to go down to the root  
of humanity, and has no feeling for it and no  
knowledge of it, he will fail to understand the  
Gospel, and will then try to profane it or else  
complain that it is of no use.—Adolf Harnack.

## Tenement-House Settlement Work.

The Commons, St. Paul, Minn., Wholly Self-  
Supporting, Unique also in its Methods,  
Introduces Important Questions.

In describing the work of Settlements it has  
been considered necessary to dwell upon the day  
nursery, the industrial school, the kindergarten,  
the clubs, the music, the games, the drawing, the  
dancing, the bank, the bath tub, etc., etc. These  
are all good works, but except the features dis-  
tinctively social, or those common to home life,  
are they embraced in the Settlement idea of so-  
cial service? Successful Settlement workers have  
always employed these activities chiefly as ave-  
nues leading to the real Settlement opportunities.  
Are not the clubs, classes, etc., the material, sur-  
face indications that the Settlement is in action?  
If the Settlement’s purpose can be attained with-  
out these externals, if the opportunity which they  
afford for getting into the lives of the people,  
can be opened without them, would it not be  
well to dispense with many of them? If this is  
desirable what method more direct, and equally  
natural, may be employed to reach the hearts of  
the people who need the Settlement?

A writer in the Charities Review some time  
ago drew attention to the fact that the ordi-  
nary tenement house furnishes the best possible  
opportunity for Settlement work, and the point  
would appear to be very well made. The idea  
is not that the tenement house is simply a good  
place in which supported workers may establish  
an institutional Settlement, with its complexities  
of clubs and classes. It is well suited for such  
undertakings, but it is also a place where Settle-  
ment work may be done by more direct methods,  
and be wholly self-supporting. No outside finan-  
cial assistance is needed. This merit of the ten-  
ement house may be turned to account in at least  
two ways. One is for not less than two quali-  
fied people, following their regular vocations, to  
take an apartment in the tenement, spending their  
evenings and other spare time in neighborliness  
in the block. There is no chance for failure here.  
The degree of success depends simply upon the  
fitness of the workers. Some of the tenants in  
almost every such building are unconsciously do-  
ing a little work having some correspondence to  
this. Another plan is to lease a large tenement,

sublet the apartments, live upon the margin of profit, and devote the time to Settlement work with the tenants. The relation of the worker to the people under such circumstances, is wholly natural. There is nothing to explain. The idea of brotherhood and friendliness is not veiled.

In the Commons, a Social Settlement in St. Paul, Minn., directed by Miss Eleanor Hanson, the practicability of this plan is being demonstrated. This Settlement has been in successful operation six years, and is steadily enlarging its field of opportunity. The work is carried on at the corner of Jackson and Eighth streets, in a locality crowded with saloons and disreputable lodging houses. The building used is a four-story, steam-heated brick—five stores on the ground floor and one hundred apartments above. The stores and about ninety-five of the rooms are rented, the remainder being used by the family. The cost of rooms at the Commons corresponds with the amount paid for similar accommodations in the neighborhood. Not to make a living profit would defeat the purpose at both ends; the work would fail from insufficient support, and reduced rents would tend to pauperize the tenants. Care is taken to have no crowding in the place. About one hundred and seventy people live there, and for these chiefly the work is carried on. The population is made up of laborers, mechanics, factory girls, clerks, waiters, milliners, office help, and the like. A small dining-room is operated and, while it is no necessary part of the plan, it is a convenience to some of the lodgers and tends to give the helpful impression that the inhabitants of the building all constitute one family. This unity of feeling in the place is most powerful for good. The family, lately moved in, who have been in the habit of sending the beer pail regularly to the saloon come to feel that they are a discordant note in the harmony of the house; and men and women whose lives bear the stains of darker deeds become sensible again of the sweetness and joyfulness and satisfying nature of a pure home life. Of course, no questions as to character are asked of those applying for rooms. The receipts may be set down thus: Five stores, \$115.00 per month; 95 rooms, about one-half of which are furnished, \$455.00 a month; yearly rent, \$684.00; board, \$1,160.00 a year; total, \$8,000.00. The expenditures: Rent \$3,000.00; heat, \$1,000.00; light, \$750.00; water, \$100.00; help, \$1,100.00; provisions, \$1,100.00; laundry, \$250.00; furnishings, \$200.00; repairs, \$200.00; sundries, \$300.00; total, \$8,000.00.

In the beginning the classes and clubs, usual in Settlement work, were organized and conducted with the customary degree of success; but later Miss Hanson came to believe that the en-

ergy necessary to keep this machinery running could be better employed in touching simply and directly without plan the life-springs of character. She tried this with highly encouraging results. So most of the stated hours for doing material things were abolished. Some of them, for extraordinary reasons, remain; for example, the night school, established years ago, has grown so that it must be conducted in different quarters of the city, a large force of teachers under Miss Hanson's direction, being necessary. While not a little of her time is employed in influencing, by suggestion and encouragement, the chief thought is given to creating and maintaining a healthful, enlarging spirit in the house. This life in the place is its principal developing, uplifting, constructive and reconstructive power. It goes without saying that well endowed tenants are insensibly drawn into the work. Sociables, plays, entertainments, musical recitals and such, are still common, but they are brought about by the people in the tenement for their pleasure and profit. The atmosphere of the house is wholly natural, wholesome and easy; the movement toward a higher and larger life distinctly visible.

Of course, the qualifications needed to conduct successfully a work of this kind are of an order superior to those called for in teaching classes in sewing or carpentry, but there can be no doubt as to its greater effectiveness. Perhaps this introduces the question as to whether or not the Settlement is the best place for such necessary lines of work as industrial training. The word Settlement has not been clearly defined, of course, and while its spirit is recognizable at once, yet the personal feeling enters largely into the definition. The work at the Commons aims to supplement, but not to perform, the work of the home, the church, and the common, industrial, physical and art schools.

It would seem as if this view of the Settlement opportunity simplifies the problem, and should lead to an extension of the work, as the highest quality of service can be commanded without financial outlay.

### The Value of an Economic Library.

BY HELEN MAROT.

In the spring of 1897, the Free Library of Economics and Political Science was opened in Philadelphia. It was founded on the idea that freely offered opportunities for education in economics and political science make directly for a more intelligent public opinion and a higher citizenship.

The four years' struggle of the library was partly told in the financial statements in the three Annual Reports. It was, however, recog-

nized from the time of its inception that an independent library, dealing exclusively with public affairs, was probably in advance of a liberal financial support for such a purpose. But the organizers of the plan trusted that the library would serve as an object lesson; that established educational institutions would appreciate its importance, and that the work, if once commenced, would be taken in hand and carried on by one of the existing organizations. Much to the satisfaction of the Directors this has recently been achieved in the transference of the library to the American Academy of Political and Social Science. The full value of the library to Philadelphia will be realized when the Academy removes its headquarters to the heart of the city, as they are now planning to do. The interest of those either practically or theoretically engaged in social questions will be strengthened by the establishment of this center. Under the direction of the Academy, the library will be developed, and its usefulness extended as it was impossible for it to be under the old management.

The Free Library of Economics and Political Science was opened to meet what was recognized as a small but all important demand. It was appreciated that the demand came from those who were giving their time, publicly and privately, in politics and out, to advance the welfare of the country and to awaken in the people a sense of social responsibility.

Possibly it is true that for some years to come the mass of the people will be willing to leave affairs of state to the few; but thoughtful persons have given the warning that grave dangers threaten democracy unless the few increase, if not to all the people, then to a number sufficiently large to instill life into the whole body.

It is undoubtedly too true for our national welfare that "yellow journalism" has increased and cheap sensationalism is often preferred to honest thought. So much more imperative is it on this account for us to open the way for the few who are searching for accurate statements and truthful deductions. There are always with us, private citizens whose potential qualities may at any time expand into larger social usefulness.

The apathy of the people is apparent at the local elections in our large cities and their ignorance is perennially in evidence concerning economic issues.

Educational work along political and economic lines is carried forward by colleges, public and private lecture courses and by public spirited citizens, through clubs, social settlements and various organizations contending for some specific reform. These different bodies are calling to their

aid every year, men and women highly trained in the work requiring their assistance.

The value of the library as an adjunct to this work is at once apparent. The failure of libraries in large cities to take their part and assist, shows a strange lack in initiative not consistent with the library spirit of recent years. Libraries in small cities are not justified in specializing to any great extent except on the ground of demand, but this is not the case in the libraries of the great cities. The whole population of the country looks to these cities to supply the diversified needs, not only of their own immediate constituency, but of the inhabitants of the surrounding country. It is from these great social aggregations, where industrial pressure is the keenest and political strife most active, that leadership is expected in the economic and political movements of the time.

In every large city there is need of a library, which is either a department of one of the large public libraries, or a library connected with an unpartisan economic or political association, engaged in educational work. It is peculiarly the province of a public library, supported by public funds, to contribute towards the education of citizens in citizenship. The appropriateness of public libraries, giving attention to this material, was recognized and urged by the late Dr. Daniel G. Brinton. In spite of the fact that his own interests were bound up in ethnology, he saw that the subject, which dealt with public affairs, should take precedence in one of the public libraries in every large city.

The collection of sociological literature has generally been carried further by the college libraries than by others, through the demand of the departments dealing with the subject. But this is practically only accessible to professional people, and further, these collections, while covering the field needed in the courses of study, cannot be sufficiently comprehensive to meet the demand of general readers, as well as the special students of specific conditions or theories outside of the university.

Such libraries as we have in mind should be kept fully stocked with the standard works of social economics and political science, both in theory and history, and should liberally include works in philosophy and science of importance to the student of these special subjects. If the library is a department of a larger library, reference to the other departments could often be substituted for the books themselves.

Liberality should also be extended to those volumes, if worthy, which are of importance only for a season. The best of this material, however,

is to be found in pamphlets of periodical literature.

The accumulation of this ephemeral literature as well as of state reports demands the attention of some one who has not only a keen interest in public affairs, but who has a genius for the discovery and collection of material.

The librarian, when making accessions to his library, is assisted in judgment, as a rule, by advance notices of a book, reviews and the reputation of the publishing house. Such assistance is generally lacking in the collection of pamphlets. A librarian who is interested in the subject matter of his library will know oftener than not the reputation of the author of stray pamphlets and local societies issuing reports or other literature. He will also, when reading a daily paper, instinctively discover the incidental allusions to a new or stray publication. His continuous meeting with others interested in the same subjects, in or out of the library, will enrich his opportunities of discovery.

Discrimination in the collection of state reports would be the most perplexing part of the work of collection. These reports are issued in overwhelming quantities and vary in value from statements of fact—which are evolutionary in character—to flagrant misstatements issued for partisan purposes. A long continued and indiscriminate admission of domestic and foreign reports would lead to a calamitous abuse of library space.

On the other hand, the librarian should exercise his function of selection in the most generous spirit and remember that his judgment is not final, and, moreover, that exclusion of literature is sometimes more disastrous than overcrowding.

The expense of expert assistance in the collection of the pamphlets and state reports would be offset by the small cost of the literature itself in comparison to its intrinsic value. Many political and economic associations issue their reports and other publications entirely free of cost.

The importance of such literature, carefully classified and accessible to the general public, can not be overestimated. It would furnish valuable statistics and thought for speeches and debates and would act, even if the library were used only by the few, as a lever working towards a higher social plane.

The administration of the library should be in the hands of experienced librarians, who are trained not only in library methods but the subject with which the library deals and are alive to public interests.

The personnel of the library staff often makes as much difference to a reader, who approaches a

subject for the first time, as the books themselves. Any one who has used a well conducted library, which specialized in some one subject, will remember that there was something contagious in the atmosphere and, if those in charge did not know the subject as well as he, they at least knew the literature far better and were able to help him to a further knowledge of what he wanted as well as to the books and papers. When a reader's topic is an inclusive one rather than some well defined subject, his painful search through a drawer of cards and bibliographical lists seldom returns to him the same wealth of material that librarians will unearth. The latter's constant experience gives them cues which they can adjust to the new demands of readers as they come up.

A catalogue in special libraries is as much if not more for the use of the librarian than the readers, an opinion in which the latter are generally glad to concur. The advantage of coming in contact with the readers is no less to the librarian, who can in this way broaden his knowledge and point of view for the direct benefit of the library.

A library, conducted on these principles and dealing with social problems, would in time grow into a veritable bureau of information. The bulletin boards would call attention to the literature in the library dealing with the issues before the people, to recent books, the newly issued reports of importance to economic and political thought and would keep on file recommended courses of reading for isolated students.

It can hardly be doubted that the very existence of such a library in a large city would stimulate interest and promote less biased thought.

New York City.

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## Chautauqua's Social Settlement Week.

BY JANE E. ROBBINS, M. D.

Twenty workers from a dozen Settlements gathered together in Chautauqua, New York, during the second week in July, which was largely devoted to a Settlement conference. The speakers at the meetings were all heads of Settlements, Mr. Taylor, of Chicago Commons; Mr. Cadwallader, of Goodrich House, Cleveland; Mr. Daniels, of Neighborhood House, Philadelphia; Miss Holmes, of Westminster House, Buffalo, and Miss Addams, of Hull House, Chicago. The audiences were made up of people who varied in the amount of their information all the way from the workers themselves to men and women like the country doctor, who said slowly at the end of a lecture: "I think Mr. Cadwallader showed great indiscretion in choosing a subject that no one knew anything about. I am a well-read man and I have never heard of a Settlement."

The subjects considered were: "Settlement Mediation in Politics and Religion," "Relation to the Neighborhood and to the City," and "The Personnel and Management." Mr. Taylor gave the address on "Settlement Mediation in Politics and Religion." He spoke of the Settlement as a unifying force and described the "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" which is arranged for all and where everything that divides is shunned. The degree to which a Settlement may engage in or co-operate with church work was said to be determined by what it is possible for a Settlement to undertake in a given community without ceasing to be a Settlement. What one Settlement can do in one neighborhood is no criterion for judging another in a different district. He spoke also of the work done in politics in rallying the moral forces of the neighborhood in a successful effort to break down the corrupt gangs which ruled both political parties.

Mr. Cadwallader said in one of his addresses: "There are many people in the world with benevolent impulses who think they have high ideals of doing good, of doing things which shall be of use in the world (and to a very considerable extent that is true), but there is failure in one point—they never seem to arrive at such a state of mind or heart that they can associate with other men and women on the basis that they are men and women, and that there are things in every life to be respected, that they have ideals of living as important for them as any ideals which can be created for them. This thing is not so easy to arrive at. In the Settlement the attempt is made to maintain a relationship which shall be natural, which, on the other hand, shall not be some sort of

a looking down, or coming down to somebody's else level, or lifting them up to a higher plane, elevating them to an ideal that ought to be good for them, according to the idea of somebody else. The Settlement is an association for getting for both sides the best there is for them in the association."

Miss Holmes described the different ways in which Settlements come into existence. Sometimes a group of individuals or a family goes to live in a crowded neighborhood and gathers about them their friends who have similar aims. And sometimes the work begins as an organization with a formal board of managers. She thought that the resident to be desired in the Settlement must be public-spirited, adaptable and happy.

Miss Addams gave a number of addresses to large audiences. She spoke twice on Tolstoy and once on "The New Ideals of Peace." Her address at the regular Settlement conference was on "Arts and Crafts." She brought out clearly the solace to be found in fine workmanship and the importance of having the man in the factory learn to use his hands so that he shall give himself some pleasure thereby.

Mr. Daniels gave an illustrated lecture, showing pictures of the neighborhood where he has his home and describing the simple and natural relations of a family to its neighbors.

The thought most prominently brought out, both in the public meetings and in the private conferences, was the democratic spirit. One speaker said: "The ideal person to help in a Settlement is one of strong democratic character, with infinite faith in human beings, who protests against the division of society into classes and who believes that the truest, happiest life is the democratic life." Some of us certainly noticed with a feeling of relief that nothing was said about the young investigators from the classes in sociology, "Those university pests," as a scoffing young working girl called them, and we took heart to hope that "the social laboratory" has had its day.

In one of the private meetings a warning note was uttered against the danger to the Settlement movement of having big buildings and much organization. It was pointed out that the administration of a large work takes the time and strength that ought to go to "folks," and that it would not take long for institutionalism to kill out all the good that is in the Settlements. The pre-Raphaelite movement in England and its great influence on art was given as an instance of the power of ideas freely expressed by individuals who were unhampered by organization.

The Settlement workers enjoyed being together, and the conference was said to be one of the most successful that Chautauqua has ever known.



# The Commons.

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - Editor.

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A Year.

## EDITORIAL.

We congratulate the University of Michigan, as well as the farming communities of that great state, upon the appointment of Mr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, one of the most valued contributors to the columns of THE COMMONS, as lecturer on "Rural Sociology" in this greatest of our state universities. By his scientific knowledge of agricultural interests and his wide observation of the social aspects of the rural problem, he is exceptionally well qualified to serve the state and the whole country in this capacity.

Mr. John Palmer Gavitt, the first editor of THE COMMONS, to whose self-sacrifice and journalistic ability the settlements owe the founding of this paper in their interests, returns to journalism and literary work in Albany, N. Y. His ten years of social service has added to his rare instinct for letters such a varied experience and range of observation as cannot fail greatly to enhance the practical value of his writing and the charm of his style.

## The Chautauqua Settlement Conference.

It added as much interest to the rich program at Chautauqua Lake as it rendered a practical service to the Settlement cause to have "A Social Settlement Week" in this year's assembly season. The occasion rallied some of the most experienced Settlement workers from Philadelphia, New York, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago and other points. The program, although not very carefully prearranged to secure unity and cumulative effect, was practically suggestive and inspiring. Its main features are sketched by Dr. Jane Robbins in another column. As is always the case, however strong the program may be, the greatest helpfulness came from the personal fellowship and informal conferences which fell in between sessions. These were greatly enriched and enlivened by the presence and participation of Professor Earl Barnes, who, though never a resident, has done much consecutive work with the English Settlements, especially at

Toynbee Hall, Bermondsey and Passmore Edwards House. His estimate of the American settlements as the "finest expression of America's greatest contribution to the world—the democratic spirit," laid upon every one of us who shared the charm of the unreserved companionship a new sense of our obligation to preserve the simplicity and reality of that social democracy which constitutes the very soul and power of every Settlement worthy of the name.

A young merchant at the Chautauqua Settlement conference finely said: "With refinement always comes the democratic spirit, which is just another name for sympathy."

Anent the country doctor's remark a long-time resident observed: "I am sure he is a scholar and a gentleman, and, so tired do I get sometimes of being in the public eye that I am just thankful that he never heard of us."

Over sixty young women, who had for years attended the Hull House summer school at Rockford, Ill., accompanied Miss Addams to Chautauqua Lake for this season's session. This change of base added variety in instruction and travel, including a trip to Niagara.

## Ennobling the Sullied American Name.

The fear of being charged by the foremost of our military censors of national morality with having "an over-heated conscience" does not seem to have deterred President Roosevelt in retiring from active service the Brigadier-General who ordered our soldiers to kill all over ten years old and make Samar "a howling wilderness." In so doing the President was not inconsiderate of that officer's "long career distinguished for gallantry, and, on the whole, for good conduct such as to reflect credit upon the American army." But he fully shared the revolt of the nation's heart and conscience against those exceptional "instances of the use of torture and of improper heartlessness in warfare on the part of individuals and small detachments." For with the full effect of his action upon party press and politicians before his eyes, he did not hesitate publicly to declare what the people have personally felt, that "the shooting of the native bearers by the orders of Major Waller was an act which sullied the American name." What could be done to make lustrous that which was thus sullied the President's order has bravely and in a manfully American way undertaken to do.

### A Christian Revenge.

To "revenge" the murder of one of their graduates at the hand of one of the boy gangs in the St. Pancras district, London, the pupils of Millhill School have been moved by their head master to support one or more of their alumni in residence at Passmore Edwards House to work among these neglected boys. Already this school sustains boys' clubs at Toynbee Hall, whose members are welcomed to share the field sports on the luxurious grounds of this select school.

Wounded unto death, at the hand of a man who resented insult to his family, gathered on the doorstep of his home in the neighborhood of Chicago Commons, a member of the "Trilby Gang" lies at the City Hospital. To save these poor "gang" boys from the perversion of their natural social instincts two things seem necessary—the exclusive use of a club-room every evening, and the leadership of a "born leader" of boys. Both can be secured at the cost of not more than \$50 per month. Why should not our privileged high schools, institutes and academies in Chicago and every city take this kind of revenge on the menace which neglected boys ever are to the community which abandons them to ignorance, idleness and brutality? Had Chicago Commons entered upon its work sooner, perhaps Chicago might have been saved the crimes of a criminal family whose boys grew into desperadoes just ahead of our boys' clubs. Three of them have for a dozen years robbed and assaulted whenever out of prison, and a fourth is fast following the examples and actual training of parents and brothers. As we write, one of them is dead at the morgue, shot through the heart by his criminal father while trying to beat out his brains with a sledge hammer.

### \*Chicago Commons.

#### Outings Between Showers.

Despite the "return of the clouds after the rain" through two of the three out-of-door months, our outings have succeeded, however often their scheduled dates have been drowned out. The playground floats above all floods. Its swings weather every gale. Even Camp Commons at Elgin, though most of the time more of an aquarium than the sunny meadow by day and the camp-fire circle by night, has not dampened the boys' spirits down into "the blues" or the depths of home-sickness. Old Sol begins to shine a little more invitingly upon the coming of the girls for their month at camp. The Winnetka country cottage for the young women fulfills its purpose of supplying a happy, healthful place in which their smaller

groups spend the well-earned and all too brief vacations. By the persistent kindness of some of our suburban friends and by the grace of an occasional sunny day we have had some of the largest and most thoroughly well enjoyed day picnics we have ever had. Of the day at River Forest one of the guests of the Woman's Club declared, "It was the happiest day of all my many years in America." The Noyes Street Mothers' Club of Evanston had their fears of too small an attendance pleasantly disappointed by having 350 mothers and children to entertain, only a hundred more than they really expected. Very manifold and sweet are the summer reciprocities which grow in number and deepen with the years of Settlement co-operation. None are more satisfactory than those which are growing between the good people of Elgin and the boys and girls of Camp Commons. The churches of several denominations, Protestant and Catholic alike, vie with each other in providing dinners, entertainments and financial support for the camp. It is hard to tell whether Universalists or Presbyterians, Congregationalists or Roman Catholics are most interested. The good priest of St. Mary's has shown us the hospitality of his home and parish by inviting the resident in charge of the camp to dine and address the women of his church, who take their turn in supplying camp dinners. He also sent a carry-all out to bring all the boys into his church service one Sunday, and then left with them money enough to buy base balls and bats, besides more for camp expenses. Several Protestant pastors have taken like initiatives, while the people of all faiths have happily fraternized in serving "these least."

The public playground opposite Chicago Commons, on the corner of Morgan and Grand avenue, was opened most auspiciously in June. While much smaller than the requirements of the neighborhood, every inch of ground is made to do duty. The playground is open during vacation from 9 to 12 o'clock in the morning, from 2 to 5:30 in the afternoon, and from 7 to 9 in the evening, with a resident from the Settlement always in charge. Like a swarm of bees, the children buzz around the gate waiting for the gates to open, and not a few in their eagerness surreptitiously climb the fence. Four large swings, three see-saws, a turning pole and two sand piles are in constant use, while games of different kinds are carried on by small groups. Story-telling is most fascinating for the children, and the resident who is an accomplished story-teller stands high in their estimation. Occasionally the children themselves take a hand in story-telling, and most strange and extravagant are their descriptions of people and things.

It is impossible to estimate the advantages to the children. An active child, be he rich or poor, with nothing legitimate to occupy him, is bound to find something to do and the "find" generally ends in trouble and mischief. The resident in charge has his or her hands full in seeing that the use of swings is equally divided, to look after the "teeters," sand piles and various games, to check rude language and selfishness, but each and all as they take their turn are most enthusiastic over the work accomplished.

On Fourth of July evening the neighborhood Italian band played in liveliest fashion, fireworks of various kinds from the pinwheel to the gorgeous burst of roman candles and rockets were set off and thoroughly enjoyed by parents and children, who crowded the playground and surrounding side-walks. The playground is a great success and should be made permanent by private if not by public funds.

### **Starr Centre Coal Club.**

BY PHILIP B. WHELPLEY.

Since colonial times, when the New England fishermen worked on the share system, experiments in the co-operative principle in this country have had their ups and downs, and have faithfully registered the rise and fall of national prosperity. Co-operative societies, large and small, provided they are conducted honestly and in a business-like way, promote thrift and many strong moral virtues. The complete success of well-managed co-operative clubs is the best recommendation that could be put forward.

In the Seventh Ward in Philadelphia, where there are 9,000 colored people huddled together, there is a co-operative coal club that has been remarkably successful and is having a good moral and educational influence on the community. This club started eight years ago, has progressed slowly, but has gone far. It issued from the efforts of one person and has now become thoroughly naturalized in the neighborhood. It was started and is now a branch of the work carried on by the Starr Center and is known as the Starr Center Coal Club.

The club is fortunate in having for a manager a lady who volunteers her services and throws herself into the work with enthusiasm, sustained and strengthened by rare patience.

The members of the coal club, numbering now above six hundred, are all colored. It had been the custom of most of them to buy their coal by the pail or bucket, paying at the rate of seven or eight dollars per ton and by the installment plan

\$6.50 or more when the retail price was \$5.50. One great object of the coal club was to break up this habit of buying by the bucket. Then there is a social side which is, of course, of inestimable value, and a moral value which lies in the teaching of these people to save, thus helping them to a self-respecting independence.

The coal is bought at the mines at market prices, stored in the bins of a large company in Philadelphia, and delivered as desired. One great benefit to the members is the certainty of correct measure and good quality. The coal is sold in ton, half-ton and quarter-ton loads. Two members may order two barrels (one-quarter of a ton) together, which may mean a saving of fifty cents on the same amount bought by the bucket. The annual fee is ten cents for each member. There is a small profit on the sale of the coal, which is used by the club for the necessary expenses of office service, printing, and social meetings, and any residue is used in such a way as seems to the greatest advantage to the members.

The club has a corps of visitors, whose object is not only to collect payments, but to establish friendly relations with the family and exert a helpful influence. Members are encouraged to make their deposits at the Starr Center office, which is open every day from nine to five. Monthly meetings form another important social feature. Cordial relations are established between people of different creeds, neighborhoods, and walks of life. Coal is not the only topic discussed, and music and lectures add to the interest.

In brief, the coal club is a trust of labor, thrift, and mutual confidence, and its members grow more and more unselfish and their respect and affection for their neighbors increases as the co-operative principle crystallizes in their own minds. It should be remembered that the success of a club of this kind depends entirely upon the character and ability of the manager, who must give it a constant stimulus.

A few figures from the annual report:

Number of visits paid, per week, about..	250
Number of members.....	612
Tons of coal sold.....	1,095.12
Number of orders filled.....	1,628
Money received for coal.....	\$5,447.25
Price by bucket—	
Stove or chestnut (8 cts.).....	6,432.00
Pea (5 cts.).....	1,455.00
	<hr/>
	\$7,887.00
Price by the quantity.....	5,447.25
	<hr/>
Saved over bucket price.....	\$2,439.75



## COLLEGE SETTLEMENTS ASSOCIATION.

## STANDING COMMITTEE.

*President:* KATHARINE COMAN, Wellesley, Mass.

*Vice President:* MRS. HELEN RAND THAYER, Portsmouth, N. H.

*Secretary:* SARAH GRAHAM TOMKINS, Marion, Mass.

*Treasurer:* ELSIE CLEWS PARSONS (Mrs. Herbert Parsons), 112 East 35th St., New York City.

*Fifth Member:* HELEN ANNAN SCRIBNER (Mrs. Arthur H. Scribner), 10 West 43d St., New York City.

## SETTLEMENTS.

New York City—95 Rivington Street.

Philadelphia—433 Christian Street.

Boston—91 Tyler Street (Denison House).

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY  
CAROLINE WILLIAMSON MONTGOMERY,  
5548 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago.

The change of officers in the C. S. A. cannot be noted without a feeling of deep regret at the withdrawal of the secretary, Miss Mabel Gair Curtis, who has served the association with untiring devotion, energy and zeal and has brought both executive ability and a spirit of high endeavor to her work. The amount of time and strength which her position has entailed are known only to those who have had similar positions. It is a pleasure to welcome back to the position of vice-president one of the earliest workers, Mrs. Helen Rand Thayer. The new secretary, Miss Tomkins, has held the position of Wellesley undergraduate elector for two years and is therefore not unacquainted with some of the work of the association.

## A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME OF WORK FOR A C. S. A. CHAPTER.

It has seemed to the editor of this division of THE COMMONS that a description of methods employed by a successful chapter of the C. S. A. might be helpful not alone to chapters whose following is less large, but to all who have the difficult task of raising money in small amounts for Settlement expenses. The following scheme of work and an appeal which has done valiant service are accordingly given below:

"October 30, 1900.

"MY DEAR ———: The College Settlements Association enters this year upon its second decade of life. It was founded in the earnest desire to share with the unprivileged throngs of our great

cities our very best—not only our possessions but ourselves—in the name of Christ and of the democracy. We feel that the depth and value of this initial impulse is fully proved, for Settlements have spread over all parts of America in these brief ten years, and are, moreover, exerting a vital influence over many other forms of social work.

"It is surely not too much to hope that in the ten years before us the College Settlements Association may largely increase its resources. The Settlement movement is the only one which the women's colleges have initiated; it represents to the public in definite form the social faith and activity of college women. Marvelous has been the growth in numbers and prosperity of the colleges for women during the last quarter of a century; shame on us if membership in the Settlements Association should remain stationary, or as has been the case of late years, should crawl *slowly upward* by fives and tens, while the collegiate alumnae increase yearly by hundreds.

"Wellesley has 1,860 alumnae; only 454 alumnae and former students belong to the College Settlements Association. May not the number within the next year be doubled? The college thrives and increases; in desolate neighborhoods, devoid of light and beauty, thronged by the hard-toiling hosts who perform the manual labor by which we live, are the three small houses, supported, partially only, by our association. Opportunities press upon them from every side. Theirs it may be to bring to these crowded workers some knowledge of the household arts possible even in poverty; something of the rich inheritance of beauty and wisdom in which we rejoice; many of the richer gifts of simple personal friendship and service. These Settlements need more space, more equipment, more workers. New regions call us also; for every city in America has more than one wilderness of poor and neglected folk who would be glad in our coming. Can we not give our money, if we cannot give ourselves, to hasten the day when these great wildernesses of modern life shall become fit for human habitation?

"Full membership in the College Settlements Association costs five dollars a year. Partial membership of a dollar and upwards is possible in the alumnae as in the undergraduate chapters.

"VIDA D. SCUDDER."

## THE WAY AT WELLESLEY.

The inventor of a novel and effective way of presenting his begging-bowl to the benevolent public should be hailed as a mendicant sage indeed. The Wellesley Alumnae Chapter, however, can claim no such proud distinction; it employs the time-

worn methods of eliciting interest and support.

The chapter has two officers elected in alternate years for a term of two years; a secretary and treasurer, who collects all dues and sends out ballots and notices, and an elector, who appoints the vice-electors, one for each class and one for each Wellesley club. Upon the zeal and judgment of these vice-electors depends the efficiency of the chapter.

The work of a class vice-elector is carried on by mail. She sends a personal letter to every member of her class, accompanied by a printed leaflet, if available. Such a canvass requires months to complete; but the personal word yields far better results than the most carefully prepared circular letter. A class needs such a stirring up once in five years. In the meantime, the vice-elector assists the treasurer by dunning those members of her class who are behind with their subscriptions, and is constantly on the lookout for possible non-collegiate subscribers and for opportunities to establish sub-chapters in preparatory schools and women's clubs in which Wellesley graduates are influential. In order to better systematize the work, each class vice-elector is now preparing a card-catalogue of all members of her class, graduate and non-graduate, giving the name, address, date when last written to, date of reply, attitude toward the C. S. A., and, if a subscriber, date and amount of last payment. This record can be revised from time to time, thus giving the vice-elector and her successor all information as to the status of the work in her class, and, possibly, furnishing a basis for statistics.

A club vice-elector, having her victims within ear-shot, usually arranges for an address in behalf of the Settlements, which she follows up by verbal interviews and personal notes. When appropriations are made from the club treasury, she urges the claims of the C. S. A.

The propaganda is further carried on by a public meeting held at Wellesley every June, which is, unfortunately, but slimly attended amidst the distractions of commencement week; by reports from the College Settlements printed in the Wellesley Magazine; by seizing chances to advertise the C. S. A., such as the displaying of a poster and the distribution of reports at the Wellesley headquarters in Buffalo during the Exposition, or a toast at a Wellesley luncheon.

Thus far in its experience the chapter has found two ideas most useful in maintaining its membership; friendliness and informality in appeal; and promptness and perseverance in reminding delinquents of unpaid dues. It has found its greatest consolation for the loss of members in the knowledge that many who withdraw from the C. S. A.

do so only to apply all their energies to some Settlement or similar work at their own doors. The greatest service of the C. S. A. is not in maintaining three Settlements, but in inspiring the whole body of college women with the Settlement ideals of democracy and service.

EMILY BUDD SHULTZ,  
Wellesley Alumnae Elector.

### ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS, NEW YORK CITY.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY  
MARY KINGSBURY SIMKHOVITCH,  
248 East 34th Street, New York.

At the June meeting of the Neighborhood Workers' Association the following officers were elected: For president, J. L. Eliot; vice-president, Mrs. V. G. Simkhovitch; treasurer, Cerise E. A. Carmen; secretary, Antoinette Parry.

### New York Playgrounds.

As a result of having the equipment of the Outdoor Recreation League handed over to it, the city has decided to run playgrounds in two of the small parks this summer, in addition to the fifty-four Board of Education Playgrounds, which will be run for six weeks in connection with the general vacation school work.

The two undertaken by the Department of Public Parks will be one in Hamilton Fish Park and one in the DeWitt Clinton Park. Commissioner Wileox, who failed in his effort to secure appropriations for the proper equipment of playgrounds, is now arranging with the Board of Education to have the two playgrounds mentioned managed by that board until such time as he can get from the Civil Service Commission a list of qualified persons to serve as gymnasts, kindergartners and caretakers for the Park Department.

The Outdoor Recreation League is maintaining a small playground on Sixty-eighth street on private grounds. The city administration is much interested in the playground movement and hopes by next season to accomplish more in this direction.

### Public Baths in New York City.

During the past winter there has been much discussion of the marked extension of the system of public baths in New York City. The New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, which has successfully maintained a public bath at Center Market place for eleven years, has made a careful report to the president of the

borough of Manhattan with regard to the plans of construction of baths, the cost of maintenance and the desirable locations. The association recommends a system of seventeen municipal public baths for the borough of Manhattan, to include the one already existing in Rivington street. Careful plans are submitted showing the capacity of the baths suggested as compared with those now existing in New York and in other cities, and the estimated cost of the sites, buildings and maintenance is given.

There are at present in Manhattan six public baths, open the year round, one belonging to the city and five operated by various societies. The city has also fifteen river swimming baths, open only in the summer, but the Board of Health opposes an increase in river baths, owing to the pollution of the river water, and has condemned baths on the rivers formerly used as unsanitary, so that only six floating baths are now in operation.

On February 25th Mr. Cantor presented a scheme for public baths along the lines of the report of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and as a result the Board of Estimate and Apportionment voted \$450,000 for the purchase of sites and the erection of five all-year-round baths, three in Manhattan and two in Brooklyn. Those in Manhattan will be located as follows: One in One Hundred and Ninth street, near Second avenue; one in Forty-first street, near Ninth avenue, and one in the lower East Side, the site as yet not definitely settled. In addition to these baths to be erected by the city, Mrs. A. A. Anderson has just announced her intention of building a large public bath on Thirty-eighth street, between First and Second avenues, which is to be presented to and managed by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. This bath is expected to cost \$100,000 for land and buildings.

In the report of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, it is suggested that if the city deems it unwise to build the sixteen contemplated baths all at once, it should build three each year in Manhattan until the number is completed. It is to be hoped that the city's decision to build three this year means the acceptance of the suggestion and that the remaining twelve needed, according to the report, will be built within four or five years.

### A New Cooperative Settlement.

The Co-operative Social Settlement Society of the city of New York has just been incorporated. The purposes of the society are stated in the charter as follows:

"The particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are the establishment and maintenance of a Social Settlement, or Social Settlements, in the city of New York, as centers for social, educational and civic improvement, to be carried on in conjunction and association with the people residing in the neighborhoods where such Settlement or Settlements may be situated."

The incorporators of the society are: Felix Adler, R. Fulton Cutting, Eugene A. Philbin, Henry C. Potter, Jacob A. Riis, Carl Schurz, and Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch.

The Board of Managers until the annual meeting in January, 1903, consists of: W. Franklin Brush, Edward T. Devine, Rowland G. Freeman, Meredith Hare, Elsie Clews Parsons, Edwin R. A. Seligman, and Frieda S. Warburg, together with the residents of the Settlement, ex-officio, viz.: Louise C. Egbert, Paul Kennaday, Annie Anthony Noyes, Carol S. Nye, Anne O'Hagan, William Potts, Mary Sherman, Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch, and Vladimir G. Simkhovitch.

The settlement, which will be under the personal direction of Mrs. Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch, will be located on the lower West Side, in the old Greenwich village.

It is estimated that the cost of rent of settlement house and club rooms, fitting up, maintenance of kindergarten, manual training and domestic science work, compensation of those under salary or wages, and incidental expenses for the first year, may be brought within the sum of \$8,000. The residents provide for their own board and attendance.

The new feature in this Settlement to be noted is the participation by the residents (the term resident being carefully defined in the constitution) in the management of all the affairs of the settlement.

### Investments in Social Halls.

The Social Halls Association of New York has just acquired property on Clinton street, between Grand and Broome, and is preparing plans for its building, which is to contain restaurant, assembly and meeting rooms, bowling alley, billiard room and roof garden. The company was organized for the purpose of supplying the crowded tenement districts of New York with a building which should be available for all kinds of meetings and entertainments. Heretofore the people living on the lower East Side have been compelled to make use of the halls adjoining saloons for the lack of anything better, and demoralizing results have naturally followed.

Although prompted by the desire to benefit the neighborhood, the association has been organized on strictly business principles, with the idea that it was entirely possible to combine philanthropy and three or four per cent. A stock company has been incorporated with fifteen hundred shares of one hundred dollars each, and it is the hope of the directors that a moderate rate of interest may be paid on the investment.

Being content with a much smaller return than purely business enterprises are expected to yield, it will be enabled to give double or treble the accommodation, facility and comfort. The people who avail themselves of the benefits offered will be patrons and not patronized and will therefore enjoy a sense of freedom and independence which would be impossible in a philanthropic institution.

The building is to be composed of five stories and basement. In the basement, besides the necessary kitchens and store rooms, there will be bowling alleys, billiard rooms and baths. The main floor, on a level with the street, contains two restaurants, a cafe for men with a lunch counter at one end and a restaurant for non-smokers. These rooms are to be made as attractive as possible, and good, wholesome and daintily prepared meals are to be served at prices within the reach of the very poor.

The second floor will be entirely given over to a large hall, accommodating over five hundred people, which may be rented for concerts, lectures, weddings, balls, religious services, etc.

The remaining three floors are devoted to meeting rooms of various sizes, which it is expected will be rented every evening for different local organizations—lodges, boys' and girls' clubs, etc. The demand for these rooms has recently been demonstrated by the many inquiries which have come to the directors as to how soon the building will be ready for use. According to the present outlook the building will be opened about May 1, 1903, and it is hoped that all promises and expectations may be amply fulfilled.

SARA STRAUS.

#### Mayor Jones' Illness and Recovery.

The illness of Mayor Samuel M. Jones, of Toledo, has alarmed, not without cause, many friends who have been shocked by his changed appearance. Their solicitude has called forth from his great big heart one of those uniquely confidential and child-like statements to the public which are as characteristically natural to him as they are impossible to others. It concludes thus:

"I am going out into the country to take physical culture and plain work, such as my father

took and such as the farmers and laborers of to-day are taking, and plain living, and I trust in a few weeks I shall be able to present to my loving friends a physical appearance that will calm their fears, for I know that seeing is believing. In all of this I have acted according to the highest impulse of my conscience. In everything I have done the very best I knew. Belonging to no school, I am open and ready to receive any new truth. In short, with regard to health, I stand on the same ground as I do in politics—I am a man without a party, free to choose the best, as it shall appear to me. Lovingly,

"SAMUEL M. JONES, Mayor.

"Toledo, O., July 8, 1902."

We take the liberty of sharing with the many friends of Mayor Jones among our readers the words of good cheer from a letter just received: "After fifteen days in the Wilderness I rejoice in new life. Life! I have found it 'more abundantly.' I am nearer life, physical and spiritual, to-day than I have ever been before. The road, all roads, leading to it are labelled—Simplicity."

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